1: Beals E-5 (1940-1941) 1946

NU34 Tarasco NU34
Sierra Tarascans

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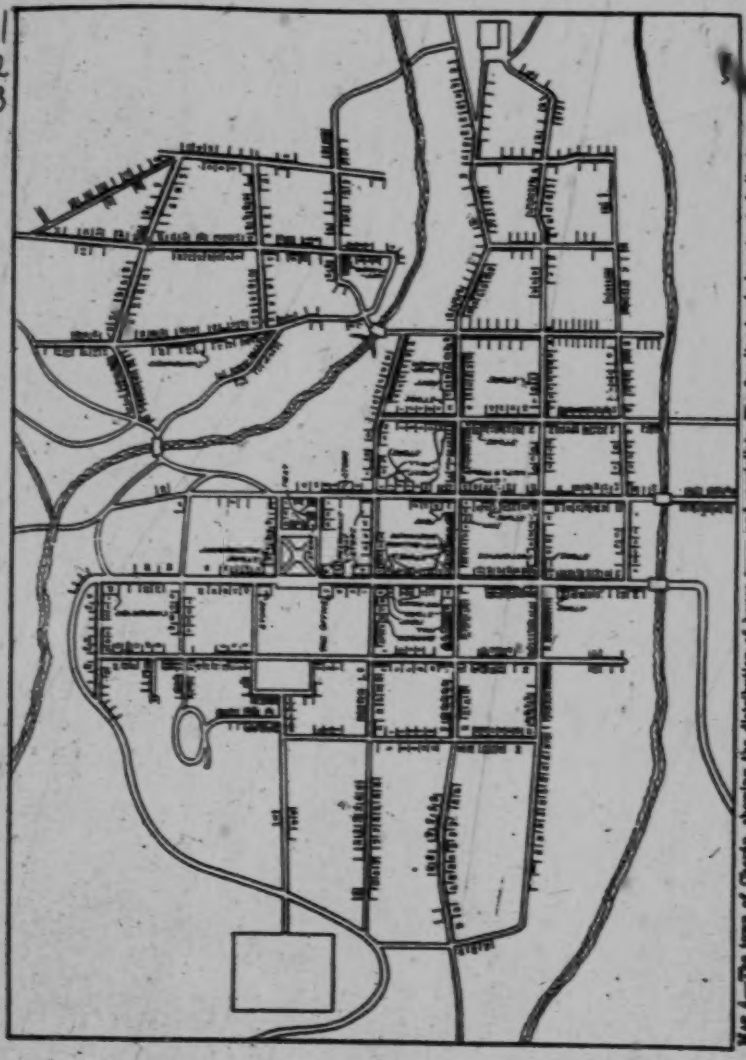

MAP 4.—The town of Cherán, showing the distribution of house types and specialists. The fine line bordering streets indicates vacant property. The medium line indicates the presence of wooden structures without masonry (although the lot may be walled with masonry). The heavy line indicates the presence of masonry or adobe structures. The majority of the latter also have one or more wooden structures on the same lot. Location of the majority of the specialized businesses or occupations is shown. The numbers refer to the house numbering system as of 1940.

[p. 10]

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632 The general situation of the *municipio* has
634 already been discussed in the first section of this paper. That discussion and maps 1, 2, and 3 indicate the main features, and no further amplification seems necessary.

The *municipio* has fairly well defined boun-
423 daries, although there are usually disputes with
632 neighboring communities. Thus Cherán currently has disputes with Cheranástico and Arantepacua. The boundaries are marked in various ways. In the cultivated areas the boundaries are marked with stone walls. Where water courses form the boundaries, no markers are placed, but in the woods, a strip 4 or 5 meters wide is cleared along the
[42] boundary. This is done by communal labor, and when the line needs clearing again an assembly is called and a day fixed for the work. Every male is supposed to go. The Municipal Representative (described later) is supposed to lead the party.

THE TOWN AND ITS SUBDIVISIONS

633 Cherán is a compact and essentially urban
[161] settlement with a population of about 5,000. Few North Americans, unfamiliar with the concentrated settlement forms of Mexican towns, would imagine it contained anything like this population. There are no suburbs and very little straggling out of houses from the main center. Around the outskirts the lots are a little bigger and the density of population is less but the transition from town to open fields is nevertheless abrupt.

361 The layout of the town is undistinguished. A central plaza with a fountain, *portales* or sidewalks covered with arches about it, the municipal building, school, priest's residence, and church may be duplicated in hundreds of Mexican towns. The plaza is not today the center of the settlement geographically. Undoubtedly the town has grown since the time of its founding, and because of the deep *barranca* to the north, expansion has been in the other directions, leaving the plaza north of the present center of town by two or three blocks.

363 Radiating from the plaza is a network of streets laid out in a rectangular grid which makes only minimal concessions to the irregularities of the terrain. The enclosed blocks or *manzanas* are utilized as administrative divi-

1:Beals E-5 (1940-1941)1946 NU34 Tarasco NU34

963 sions of the town. This feature will be discussed later.

633 A larger subdivision than the block is
103 furnished by the *barrio* as indicated in maps 4 and 5. These divisions function in relation to elections, office holding, and certain municipal and ceremonial obligations. *Barrio* No. I is to the northwest and is known as Jalúkutin, or in Hispanicized form Urúkutin. This name is said to mean "something on edge" or "something in a small corner," apparently referring either to its position on the edge of the largest *barranca* or its position against the small hill on the northeast edge of town. *Barrio* No. II is called "Keſku," "down," or the lower *barrio* (*barrio de abajo*), and is the southwest *barrio*. The southeast *barrio*, No. III, is "Kalákua," "up," the upper *barrio* (*barrio de arriba*). *Barrios* II and III are usually known by their Spanish terms, and not everyone knows the Tarascan names. The fourth *barrio* is Paricutin. This means "to pass to the other side" and refers to the position of the *barrio* on the other side of a *barranca*.

633 The *barrios* show very few differences.
184 Paricutin is less populated, has larger lots, and is said formerly to have been more isolated and backward, with fewer people speaking Spanish. The staff of the investigation all had the impression that this is still true to some extent, although little concrete evidence could be secured. Certainly, as the staff can well attest,
[231] the dogs of Paricutin are far less socialized than those of the remainder of the town.

633 Membership in the *barrio* is based entirely on residence. Property owners who reside in another *barrio* have *barrio* obligations only in the place of residence. There is no rivalry between *barrios* nor any instances in which *barrios* act as units on their own initiative. All the functions of the *barrio* appear to be derived from the *municipio*. There is no evidence whatever that the *barrio* has anything to do with regulating marriage or other social relationships. Even *barrio* chapels are lacking. In all probability the subdivisions are of Spanish origin and the only reason for suspecting otherwise lies in the mention of *barrios* by early Spanish writers in nearby areas.[27]

[27] On the other hand, as Silvio Zavala has shown fairly conclusively, Bishop Quiroga, first bishop of Michoacán and great

114 by one or more of the authors included the following:

Sierra region:
- Ahuiran
- Angahuan
- Aranza
- Capacuaro
- Charapan
- Cherán
- Cocucho
- Corupo
- Nahuatsen
- Nurió
- Parscho
- Parangaricutiro
- Parícutin
- Patamban
- Pomacuarán
- Quinseo
- San Felipe
- San Lorenzo
- Tarecuato
- Urapicho
- Zirosto

La Cañada:
- Acachuén
- Carapan
- Chilchota
- Huáncito
- Ichán
- Santo Tomás
- Tacuro
- Tanaquillo
- Urén
- Zopoco

Lake Pátzcuaro:
- Cucuchucho
- Huecorio
- Ihuatzio
- Janicho
- Jarácuaro
- Tecuena
- Tsentsénhuaro
- Tsintsuntsan
- Tzurumútaro
- Yunuán

[continued on p. 6b]

THE TARASCAN TOWN

361 Tarascan towns tend to be located on level, or relatively level ground. Exceptions are found only in a few villages located in the higher mountains such as Quinseo, Cocucho, and others. Except where the irregularities of the terrain prohibit, [363] the towns are subdivided by streets forming rectangular blocks oriented approximately to the compass points (pl. 1, upper). This is undoubtedly a reflection of the Spanish origins of these [177] towns; in many of the settlements traditions of former locations still exist. The blocks are subdivided into lots, or *solares*, of quite variable size, which are used both as building sites and gardens. Usually, the lots are fenced, particularly on the side facing the street. Houses either may adjoin the street line or may be located well within the lot away from the street. In the center of the larger towns, structures are more apt to adjoin the street, but the doors of living quarters almost always open on the yard rather than the street.

In the Lake region, the fishing villages tend to be on the edge of the water. As a result, some [363] of the smaller villages, such as Tecuena and Yunuán, do not have streets but merely paths. Where the ground is very uneven, as at Janicho

[p. 6a] [continued bottom of page 6-b]

where Mestizo influence is marked. Nevertheless, in some towns, such as Capacuaro, almost the only nonwooden structure is the church. Structures of wood also occur in the other districts, although they are relatively rare.

The difference in materials used apparently has a geographic basis. The Sierra region has abundant forests, while often lacking sufficient water to permit easy manufacture of adobes or

[continued on p. 7b]

The Town of Cherán THE TOWN

The town of Cherán lies at the head of a broad valley about 1,300 feet (400 m.) above the valley floor at an elevation of 8,500 feet (2,500 m.) (pl. 1, lower). The terrain slopes rather steeply toward the west. A small ravine forms the western half of the south boundary of the town; the eastern half of the south boundary lies beyond the ravine. A much larger ravine forms the north boundary of the town. A branch of this ravine runs through the town and partly isolates the northeast *barrio*, or *cuartel*. Springs at the bottom of this ravine afford part of the water supply. A pipe-and-wooden-trough system also brings water from a spring 9¼ miles (15 km.) away to cement tanks in the approximate center of the town as well as to a fountain in the plaza, which lies north of the center. At the northeast is a small cinder cone, which affords most of the stone used for buildings and fences. The town encroaches on the slopes of the cone on the east and south. The northeast *barrio*, or *cuartel*, climbs part way up the slopes of another cinder cone.

Most of the streets of the town are oriented to the cardinal directions, and the central part of town is subdivided into rectangular blocks. In some sections irregularities of the terrain have led to modifications of the block plan; in these sections streets may follow the curving contours. Streets vary in width from mere pathways to about 40 feet (12.2 m.). In the heart of town they are often paved with small cobblestones and have a central drain or gutter. Stone-paved sidewalks are common in the middle of town. The main north–south street is traversed by the Carapan-Uruapan highway and was paved with oil macadam in 1940.

[p. 7a] [Continued bottom of page 7-b]

342 tiles. The other areas have abundant water, but the forests are distant. An exception is the Sierra town of Tarecuato, where, despite abundant forests and the relative scarcity of water, most of the houses are of adobe. In the Sierra it is also becoming increasingly difficult to secure materials for large houses. This fact, together with Mestizo [177] influence, probably is contributing to the spread of adobe, or stone-and-adobe construction.

OF CHERÁN The Town of Cherán

361 The church, parish residence, school, and the municipal building all front on a central plaza. Except for benches and a fountain, the plaza is bare. Cement sidewalks and a surrounding ● 363 paved area are contributions from the highway construction.

361 The width of the building lots varies from 10 or 12 feet (3 to 3.6 m.) to almost an entire block. 351 The depth in most cases is half that of the block, but in some cases it may be little more than 20 feet (6 m.). As a general rule, however, except in the center of town, the lot is large enough for a small garden, a few fruit trees, and at least a small area devoted to growing types of corn not ordinarily cultivated in the fields (fig. 2). The size of lots varies appreciably, though, in various sections of town. There is no general rule for placing the house upon the lot except in the center of town, where it usually abuts the street, especially if it is of adobe-and-masonry construction. If the house does not front on the street, a fence, generally of stone, is built along the street line. It usually is designed to keep out all animals including pigs, and customarily is above head height so passers-by may not peer over. The interior boundaries are also fenced, but the fences are often less substantial (pls. 2, lower; 3).

351 The lots are all owned individually. They may be bought or sold freely and may be subdivided in 423 various ways. A man with a large lot may sell a portion, creating two lots. Sometimes a man who may wish to enlarge his holdings will buy a strip from an adjoining lot or even the entire lot and merge the two pieces into a single lot. Heirs may also divide lots.

3: Beals, Carrasco & McCorkle E-5 (1940-1942)1944 NU34 Tarasco NU34
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Upper: "*Troje*" in Angahuan with *ajbol* in front in place of a veranda. *Lower:* A street on the outskirts of the town of Cherán. Fences are carlessly built of dry stone, supplemented by poles.

[End plate 2]

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Right: Street near the plaza in Cherán. A stone-and-adobe whitewashed structure is visible near the church. The center shows a well-built stone-and-adobe fence capped with straw and shakes, while the houses are of wood. A typical roofed gate is visible left of center. *Left:* Two types of pole fence in Capacuaro. In Cherán such fences are usually found only between lots.

[End plate 3]

3: Beals, Carrasco & McCorkle E-5 (1940-1942)1944 NU34 Tarasco NU34
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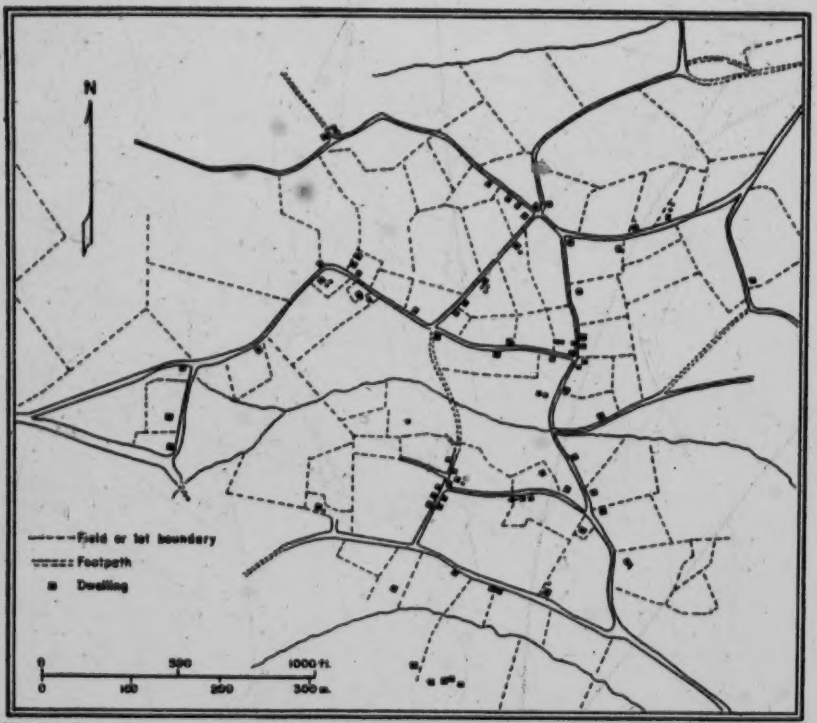

MAP 15.—Plan of Uringuitiro (Juaŋitiru), 1946. Like most indigenous ranchos of the Sierra, the street pattern is irregular and dwellings are widely spaced.

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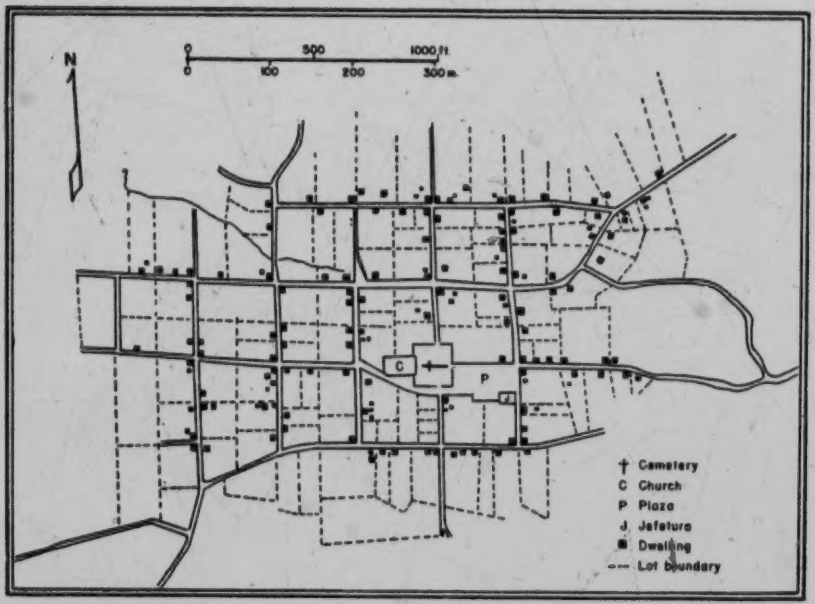

MAP 16.—Plan of Ahuiran, 1946. The plan is typical of small Sierra towns. Note the scattered dwellings and lot (ekuárau) boundaries.

[P. 29-a]

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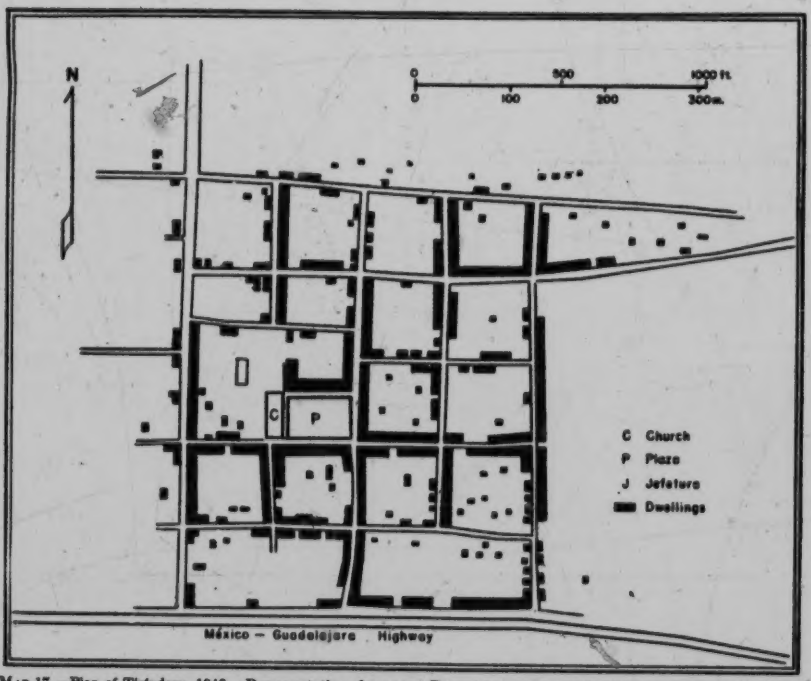

MAP 17.—Plan of Tirindaro, 1946. Representative of compact Tarascan towns, most of which occur in areas bordering the Sierra.

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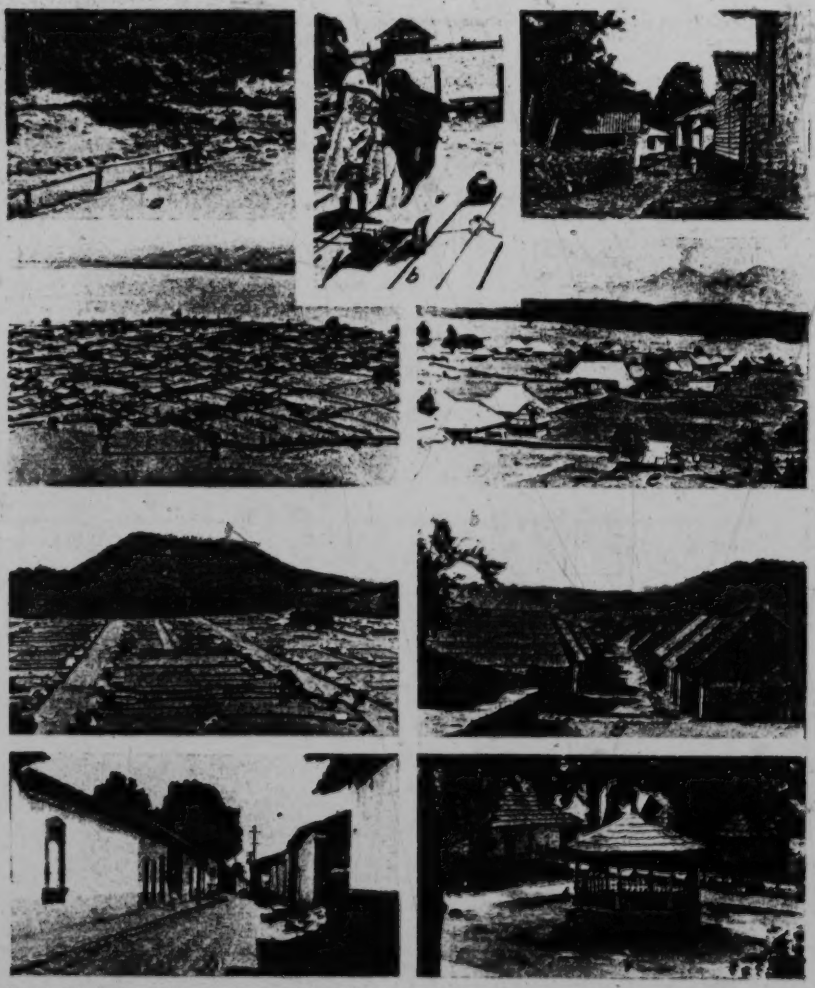

PLATE 2.—Water supply and settlement. *a*, Working aqueduct at Pamácuaro, which brings water from the local spring (center) to the outskirts of town. *b*, Drawing water from one of the public wells in Charapan. *c*, Street in Ihuatzio, Lake Pátzcuaro. *d*, Panoramic view of San Jerónimo on Lake Pátzcuaro, showing compact assemblage of adobe structures. *e*, Partial view of Zacán near Periban Volcano (background), showing grid street pattern, scattered dwellings, and large lots. *f*, Las Casitas (San Juan Nuevo), founded in 1944 to house refugees from destroyed San Juan Parangaricutiro. Nearly all crops were transported from old San Juan and reassembled on the new site. *g*, Street scene, Charapan (Sierra). *h*, Street scene, Tiríndaro, Bosque Realo. *i*, Plaza at Charapan.

[End-plate 2]

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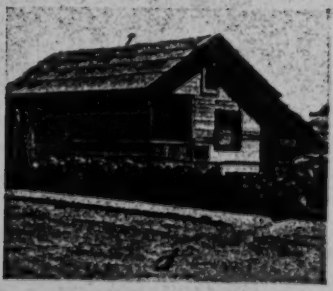

Plate 4.—Shaman types. a, Old log structure, Alaska. b, Old wooden type, Tuktoyaktuk. c, Adobe house at Ajo. The first plan and roof are similar to those of the plank type. d, Wooden house at Chilkoot, the eastern portals end of Unalaska. These new structures are North American in appearance. e, Additional Alaska two-room house, Nes Tuktoyaktuk. f, Recent cabin, Nes Tuktoyaktuk. The houses at left with the high verandahs front is often used in Latin American towns.

[End-plate 4]

4: West K-5 (1946) 1948 NU34 Tarasco NU34

PLATE 14.—Markets and transport. *a*, The Sunday firewood and fish market, Erongaricuaro. The wood vendor at left has already bartered a pile of pine sticks for a few fish in the basket. *b*, Corner in section of the Sunday market at Uruapan. *c*, The bread section of the Erongaricuaro market on the plaza. *d*, A train of burros bringing pinole poles borne from the above mountain to Arte de Rosales. *e*, Boats from Janitzio landing on the sand flats at Erongaricuaro for the Sunday market. *f*, Handing dismembered chairs and tables from Cornejo to the Uruapan market.

[End-plate 14]

11: Boyd H-4, 5 (1953) 1958
[End plate 2]
NU34 Tarasco NU34

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Plate II. Tarascan Houses and Mode of Travel

[176] *Upper*, Tarascan homes, wooden fences are a recent innovation.
[103] *Lower*, Tarascans returning to mountains after selling firewood in
[438] Morelia.

11: Boyd H-4, 5 (1953) 1958
[End Plate 3] NU34 Tarasco NU34

Plate III. Views in Morelia

Upper, Ignacio Peña, narrator of the myth of creation, in front of author's apartment.

Lower, Spanish aqueduct built to bring water from mountains to city.